IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** Claim 1, **cancel** claims 4-14, and **add** Claims 15-31 as indicated:

1. (currently amended)   A method of controlling use of software programs on a computer including the steps of:

starting a bootstrap involving loading at least one software program providing basic services for the computer;

requesting an execution authorization [[by each]] for a software program [[to]] from a licensing management system;

granting the execution authorization according to a preliminary verification of licensing information indicative of an authorized condition of use of the software program before completion of the bootstrap; and

revising the granted authorization according to a complete verification of the licensing information after completion of the bootstrap.

2. (original)   The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

loading a basic module of the licensing management system before completion of the bootstrap, each authorization being requested to and being granted by the basic module;

logging each request of authorization;

loading a full module of the licensing management system after completion of the bootstrap; and

providing each logged request to the full module for revising the corresponding granted authorization.

3. (original) . The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of requesting the authorization is deferred until completion of the loading of the basic module.

Claims 4-14. (cancelled)

15. (new)   A method comprising:

starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate authorizing the loading of the program regardless of a current operating environment of the client computer; and

upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to a full license certificate stored on a server computer.

16. (new)   The method of claim 15, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.

17. (new)   The method of claim 15, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.

18. (new)   The method of claim 15, wherein the local license certificate is based on an operating environment of the computer.

19. (new)   The method of claim 18, wherein the operating environment is based on the computer's hardware.

20. (new)   The method of claim 18, wherein the operating environment is based on software that is loaded on the computer.

21. (new)   The method of claim 18, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.

22. (new)   The method of claim 18, wherein the program is an operating system.

23. (new)   The method of claim 18, wherein the program is a network stack.

24. (new)   A system comprising:

means for starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

means for, before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate authorizing the loading of the program regardless of a current operating environment of the client computer; and

means for, upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to a full license certificate stored on a server computer.

25. (new)   The system of claim 24, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.

26. (new)   The system of claim 24, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.

27. (new)   The system of claim 24, wherein the local license certificate is based on an operating environment of the computer.

28. (new)   The system of claim 24, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.

29. (new)   A computer program product that is in a computer usable medium, the computer program product comprising:

program code for starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

program code for, before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate authorizing the loading of the program regardless of a current operating environment of the client computer; and

Page 4
Docket No. GB920010014US1
Amend A

program code for, upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to a full license certificate stored on a server computer.

30. (new)   The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the local license certificate is based on an operating environment of the computer.

31. (new)   The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.